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REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

Edited and published by
Glenn Hauser

Issue Twenty *Oct*

edited and published by TENGO K. REIR

SEMI-COHERENT RANTINGS ABOUT PROGRAMMING (SCRAP)

AAAAAABBB (Calvin Lyons, VA) Actually, no such entity exists, so I can't write anything about it. Not to mention comment on its programming. I just wanted to be first in something. You see, I've never been first in anything before, and I just thought that for once in my life I would...oh well, you know what I mean? tkr: Who cares?

ALASKA (Pedro Gómez, Lappertenheim, GFR, on SCDX) The Alaskan Broadcasting Corporation has been heard testing a new 3.5 MW transmitter on 6165 kHz at 0230 & 0530, completely obliterating the small pirate Radio Nederland (which also IDs as Radio Shortsell International). The programs were mostly relays of the home service, including the local DX club's program, "Muktuk-DX". P.S.: You will note that I craftily left out my address.

ALBANIA (Dee X. Merchant, NJ) We are proud toannounce the development of a Radio-Tirane-Filter. This wonderful tabletop device, when hooked up to your headphone jack, will filter out all Radio Tirane broadcasts, leaving the frequency free for more entertaining broadcasts such as WHAT IS COMMUNISM, the excellent comedy program hosted by Radio Moscow's own Vladimir Pozner. For free literature on this remarkable device, send a SASE to: XXXXXX

tkr: Look, Dee, you can't shaft me. If you want an ad, you gotta pay, understood?

ALDUPINABI (Wary Judd, RSA) The South African government will soon grant independence to yet another black homeland, that of Aldupinabi. This extremely promising homeland comprises the last two toilets, plus the sink, of the Pietermaritzberg train depot. The homeland has great economic potential, having surface deposits of plastic, stainless steel, and a thin substance resembling Scot-tissues. While as of now, the homeland does not have a well-developed telecommunications system, a joint committee of whites and Those Other People is working on a new radio/television system. South Africa, furthering its well-known policy of helping black homelands get off on the right foot, has donated a set of walkie-talkies, to serve as the nucleus of an educational radio network. (to be continued)

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R A D I O L A R A F A N C L U B M E E T I N G R E P O R T (Jim Weber, PA)

There was a recent meeting of the RLFC at my house; Nelson Thomas, John Bay, Dennis Orlando, and the Chairman in attendance. The agenda consisted mostly of arguments over the merits of various receivers, stations, and practices of the members.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing the recent DXperiences of the club. Of particular note was a recent DXpedition to Warrington, PA. Several receivers were brought along and hooked up to a variety of antennas; including one that was many wavelengths long. Results were generally inconclusive but a good time was had until late in the evening. Of special note was a convincing display of the wonders of diversity reception; giving the audio quality of the signal an almost poetic sheen. Much of the evening was spent transfixed by the beautiful sound produced by this reception technique. By using separate speakers, this effect is hightened as the signal noticeably shifts from one receiver to another. At least three receivers must be used to appreciate true diversity.

One of the unique things about the RLFC is that it enjoys a special relationship with a local publishing firm. The RLFC has enjoined this firm to add items to its catalogue which are of interest to the casual and serious SWL. These tracts, books and publications are available at An Extremely Reduced Price from House of Many Pleasures Press, and can be ordered thru the Chairman of the Club. Of special note is an article on Diversity Reception With the TRF. Written by a former Radio Shack employee, it chronicles an experiment with two dozen TRFs borrowed from a regional warehouse. Every cardinal point of the compass was covered and the results were impressive. Another, less technical treatise, is a book entitled Backpacking with the AR 88. All the ins and outs of camping with your favorite receiver are discussed; especially, on high, remote mountaintops. I became engrossed in this tale of great courage and stamina. The difficulty was not so much with the radio as with the batteries. Anyways, this is an interesting addition to any SWL's library.
A complete list of titles and prices is available, as are club memberships in the RLFC.

LISTENER INSIGHTS on PROGRAMMING

A L B A N I A (John Fisher, MA) Radio Tirana continues to provide stimulating, in-depth programming. During a typical Friday, one can hear interesting programs such as "The Two Super Powers, Most Dangerous Enemies of Mankind" and sometimes a mailbag program entitled "We Answer Our Listeners' Letters" in which R. Tirana answers mythical questions from mythical listeners (they never bothered with mine); and those commentaries! The titles of them will have you rolling on the floor. Here's a sampling: "Democracy in Spain, a Farce Due to the Ruling Circle of King Juan Carlos Clique"; and how about this gem: "Hitler's Former Collaborators, at the Helm of the Western States". I hope there is no one who takes this station seriously. I wouldn't be surprised if Enver Hoxha is the one who writes their scripts.

A U S T R A L I A (Indian DX Club International) R. Australia has a 20-minute program on some of the unusual "Letters to the Editor" published in Australian newspapers, at 1240 GMT Fridays on 11705, 9770. Just listen and you'll certainly hear some interesting letters mentioned.

(G. Victor A. Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka) DENIS GIBBONS SINGS is a lovely programme for Australian folk song lovers, Sats 0110, 0710, 1310, 1910--in case someone yet doesn't know about this wonderful programme.

A U S T R I A (David Hermges, on ORF POST BOX 700, Sept. 25 transcribed by Wilder Pickard) ...the editor Glenn Hauser, says ORF wins the masochist of the year award, complaining about our slavishly holding on to traditional frequencies to North America. Well, we are perfectly aware of the trouble, but it's like David fighting with Goliath. Our frequency engineers think that long term the best thing is to stick to our guns, rather than abandon customary frequencies and abandon them temporarily for something untried and then never be able to get them back. However, I passed on one of Glenn Hauser's suggestions for the panel. And, listeners in other parts of the world have been doing comparatively well recently. I know North America is a potentially important audience for us, but so it is to hundreds of other broadcasters. The plain fact of the matter is that the airwaves are filled to overflowing. Rest assured, Glenn, we are not masochists, just ordinary sufferers from the power game. But it is quite nice to know that some people like yourself set so much store by hearing our voice in the wilderness. If only you could persuade your fellow countrymen in Washington of the righteousness of our cause, life would be much easier.

(Wilder Pickard II, IL) Herr Hermges went on to say that the rumors that SHORTWAVE PANORAMA might be discontinued were untrue and that the program was going on from strength to strength. He wondered whether malice might have played a part in the rumors.

gh: A big problem about SHORTWAVE PANORAMA is that they have been unwilling to put it on the air in every regular English transmission! Instead they have had to find some odd slot for it that is normally in German other days. This is a strange programming tactic, shared only by R. Budapest, which recently has started putting its DX program within regular English slots as well. If SHORTWAVE PANORAMA is such a strong program--and it is very good when one can hear it--it ought to be on every (Saturday) English broadcast from ORF. Currently, if it were on at 0130 (0145 would conflict with Switzerland's DX program), we would have an improved chance of hearing it on 9770 (GMT Sunday).

B U L G A R I A (via Vladimir Cucura, Jr., PA) R. Sofia's current programme guide: Monday: BULGARIAN ECONOMY, WEEKLY SPORTS ROUNDUP. Tuesday: LIFE IN BULGARIA, ACROSS THE MAP OF BULGARIA, alternating weekly with NATURE ALMANAC. Wednesday: THE SOCIALIST WORLD OF TODAY, BULGARIAN PHILATELY. Thursday: MOSAIC OF FACTS ABOUT BULGARIA, MIDWEEK MAILBAG (separate editions for British Isles and North America). Friday: WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW, FROM FRIDAY TO FRIDAY, DX PROGRAMME. Saturday: First broadcast: 1st, 3rd, 4th week: TOPICAL STUDIO; 2nd week: THE BULGARIAN SHORT STORY. Second broadcast: 1st week:

RADIO SOFIA'S DISCO CLUB. 2nd week: THE OLD TREASURE BOOK--folk songs and tunes of the Bulgarian Lands. 3rd week: SCANNING THE PAGES. 4th week: CULTURAL LIFE REVIEW. Sunday: First broadcast: ANSWERING YOUR LETTERS. 2nd broadcast: first week: FIVE O'CLOCK CHAT. 2nd week: SPECTRUM. 3rd week: YOUTH MAGAZINE. 4th week: WALKS & TALKS, SIGHTS & SOUNDS IN AND AROUND SOFIA.

(gh:) For further preview details, catch FROM FRIDAY TO FRIDAY. Frequencies in September QRL were outdated; see updater for the correct ones. Days of week above are per target.

C A N A D A (Brian Rogers, MI) I'm sure many are now aware of the possible budget cuts faced by RCI thru its parent organization the CBC. When I first learned of this possibility I wrote to the president of the CBC indicating my disappointment at the possibility of another cut in RCI services. I received a prompt, courteous, but not too encouraging reply from Jack Lusher, CBC Public Relations Manager:

"We do have to respond to the cut in our budget and as RCI's activities are peripheral to our basic purpose, that of providing Canadian programming for Canadians, it will almost certainly be one of the services to feel some of the effects of the reduction in our budget. To what extent this might impinge on our shortwave service to the United States, I cannot say at this time."

It might not help, but I'm sure it wouldn't hurt if other RCI listeners wrote to Mr. Lusher too. His address is PO Box 8478, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J5.

(Louis Goldstein, MA) Had no idea RCI was in such financial difficulty. Another voice is raised to throngs of worldwide listeners that urge Canadian authorities to improve signal and extend coverage of CBC MW to world. It would do much more to improve image than most of short RCI tailored transmissions. I have written numerous times to authorities of both CBC Northern Service and CBC Network urging them to consider views of so many SWLs world wide who want to hear the superior Canadian domestic radio fare. As a start, I have repeatedly urged the authorities to extend the evening domestic relay by at least half an hour, thus affording us the chance to hear the excellent strip of dramatic and humorous shows offered nightly on CBC AM every UTC Tues-Sat 0004.

Can anyone reveal following? Why is CBC News now different on CBC Network and CBM at 0000 UTC? For long time same broadcast of Net News on all CBC Net stations; what brought this change about? Up to week of Aug 27, PLAYHOUSE was featuring new series "Bidok" (sp?) Society. They aired two or three episodes, and then without explanation, series was replaced. Any idea why?

Don Harron has returned to MORNINGSIDE, but the effervescent Steven Freygood's shortwave review was missing or retimed. One Monday he was on at 1329 UTC for a full ten minutes; the next week, 15 minutes later. Seems he is rescheduled to first hour. Great potential prime time program candidate. Great sense of humor, too.

(David James, PQ) I don't appear regularly on any NS programs or others at night you can pick up. My program RADIO NOON is on between noon and 2 PM and I'm on for about 5-6 minutes at 12:18 every weekday. The ARMCHAIR TRAVELLER program is just heard over CBM and the host is Bob Brazil who produces the morning program heard over the regional CBC network in Quebec, excluding Montreal and Quebec City. (AND on the CBC NS SW Mon 0410 --gh) It is recorded Wednesday afternoons at Restaurant Desjardins and broadcast Monday mornings at an ungodly hour. It's a volunteer affair where Bob corrals travellers after they've gotten back from their adventure. I'm enclosing a copy of the new CBC Radio Program Guide.

(gh) Thanks! I subscribed right away. The fortnightly folder is free if picked up at any CBC station, but is available by mail for only $C6 per year. Make check or MO payable to CBC, and mail to CBC Radio Program Guide, c/o Bowden's Print/Mail, 296 Richmond St. West, Toronto, Ont. M5V 1X2. It contains generalized national net program listings for CBC Radio and CBC Stereo, which you may also apply to CBC NS SW listening if you know when they're carried. Not as detailed as one would like, but much better than nothing! Info gained from listening: a new comedy series whose name I didn't catch is underway Sats at 1534-1600 on NS. DR. BUNDOLO'S PANDEMONIUM MEDICINE SHOW is back, GMT Tues 0004. ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FARCE is as of Oct. 8 back with a new series, Suns 1705. Don't forget all these NS times change to a GMT hour later Oct. 29 to keep in step with the return to standard time.

(Ian McFarland, RCI) As from Nov. 5, we're revamping RCI African Service weekend programs. On Saturdays, CANADA A LA CARTE will be on at 1800 & 2130. At 1900 MUSIC SHOP--different kinds each week. Sundays 1805, double edition of DX DIGEST and SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE 1900 BONSOIR AFRICA; 2130, ACCENT--longer shows, documentaries. DX DIGEST repeated Weds at 1900.

C H I N A (Chris Hambly, Victoria) I would be interested to know the name of the song R. Peking domestic service plays at the start of the service. The chimes are quite different to the overseas service. Could you help?

C O O K I S L A N D S (Chris Hambly, Victoria) You might also be interested to know that we have just got another local station--I mean local in signal power--Radio Cook Islands, which gives super signals on 5045 kHz between 0730 and 0830 with programmes in local languages. It is rather interesting to listen to. Anyone interested in a cassette tape of this station? (Chris's address is 47 Chessell St., Box Hill Nth., Victoria, 3129 Australia)

D O M I N I C A N R E P U B L I C (César Objío, Dom. Rep.) Rudy Espinal is no longer working at R. Clarín or at any other station in Santo Domingo. There is no possibility that R. Clarín resumes international service in English, as they were too dependent on Balaguer's government; that is, they received help for payroll, electric light and other services that are not going to be paid by the present government. Because of this there has been a reduction of employees at the station. In the new government there is a reorganization of the official station R. TV Dominicana; everything is being checked in order to see what they have and what can be used. New transmitters will be bought and there is going to be an international service on short waves, on the old 5970, relaying the MW program, and 9505 for international service. There is also a possibility that new frequencies will be added in the 60, 49, 31, 19 and 16 meter bands. More information will be given later according to what is being done.

(Richard M. Utter, NY) Most disheartening to hear of the Espinal/Clarín situation on Sept. 24 RCI DX Digest. My personal fantasy is that the powers that be at RTV Dominicana realize what an asset Sr. Espinal would be to their international service, if and when they commence it.

(John Fisher, MA) I just heard on gh's DX DIGEST report that Rudy Espinal is no longer working for R. Clarín. I feel pretty bad about it. Although I expected Radio Clarín's SW transmitter to be taken off the air with the announcement that Guzmán won the presidential election, I didn't think Rudy would give up his job. He wasn't forced to leave, was he? I have fond memories of THIS IS SANTO DOMINGO and I am sure that others will miss him also. Thanks Rudy, for one of the best programs ever on SW. Well, with that off my chest I feel a little better.

(gh) Sentiments I echo. For an article on Radio Clarín, see my November DX LISTENING column in Popular Electronics. It's supposed to include an illustration of their QSL card.

E C U A D O R (Ken Mac Harg, IN) To answer my own question from the last RIB-- HCJB's PASSPORT did change format Sept. 4. Now it is more of a music/magazine, with the first half hour containing features along the line of technical discussions, Ecuadorian music, letters and questions from listeners, and the news. The second half-hour seems to be filled with features of a religious nature--GUIDELINES FOR LIVING, etc. I must say that it is well-done, and faster-moving than the old PASSPORT format.

That program, and others like it, have seen an interesting change over the past 15-20 years. Fifteen or more years ago, they presented a daily release called the HCJB VARIETY HOUR. It was a magazine format, with music, usually by Mantovani; program highlights, and other features. Then in 1970, a young fellow by the name of Jim Reynolds went to HCJB and put together a daily program called STUDIO 70--which was a 'tight board' production, using a variety of music from Tijuana Brass to Christian Folk. This was quite an innovation, since few if any domestic religious stations were using folk music, and none of the SW religious stations were either. To move away from traditional hymns was a big move, and HCJB was one of the first to do it. STUDIO 70 was one of the best productions ever from HCJB.

In addition to music there were PSA messages, a daily devotional by HCJB head Abe Van der Puy, and other interesting features.

When Reynolds left HCJB, they went to PASSPORT, which in the beginning was more of a magazine, with Spanish Language lessons, corny humor on "The Cracker Barrel", some syndicated features, and a variety of music. This eventually evolved into the one-topic-per-evening discussion format which they have used in recent years.

My personal reaction is that I like the new PASSPORT format. The question is, will it be permanent, or is it a transition to something else? I ask that because, in the August/September issue of Religious Broadcasting magazine is an ad from HCJB which reads: "HCJB, the pioneer missionary broadcaster, plans a new English release to North America and the Caribbean on Shortwave, Prime time, 7:30-9:00 pm EST, Space Available, Special Rates, write or call...etc." Now, what does that all mean? That they plan to eliminate SALUDOS AMIGOS, UNSHACKLED, and the first half of PASSPORT, or do they plan two English releases at the same time? Guess we will have to wait and see.

Tony Jones' praise for HCJB's classical music gets a second from this corner. When we lived in Panamá, that type of music was scarce, and we listened regularly to those presentations from Ecuador. There is both an AM and a PM version--good quality, and good variety. Your comment, Glenn, about WUOT makes me observe that the UT station must have changed over the years....

F I N L A N D (R. Finland DX Press Release) New drama. Maybe the best way to understand a people and their culture is through literature. Diana Tullberg's popular series of translations and dramatisations of the best of Finnish literature continues this winter.
23 November -- "Two Dialogues" by Maria Jotuni, also in SUNDAY BEST, 3 December.
7 December -- "First Love" by Joel Lehtonen, also in SUNDAY BEST, 17 December.
11 January -- "The Last Journey" by Pentti Haanpää, also in SUNDAY BEST, 21 January.
1 February -- "Homecoming" by Mika Waltari, also in SUNDAY BEST, 11 February.
The dates at left show the first transmission of the program, at 1930 GMT. The program is then repeated over the following 24 hours.

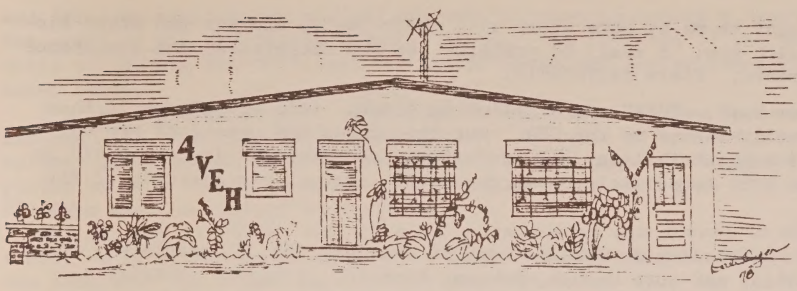
MADE IN FINLAND moves to the end of the week this autumn, every fortnight after the news on Thursday evening and Friday, about the latest Finnish products, ideas and designs.

WORLD OF RADIO, a new DX series. R. Finland's DX Editor David Mawby is back, with a series with a difference, offering a mixture of information and examples, advice and shrewd prediction. Each fortnight David reviews a different section of the radio spectrum. What are its characteristics? Who broadcasts there? What developments can be expected? How can you best tune in? Tune in to WORLD OF RADIO in SUNDAY BEST to find out more.

F R A N C E (M. Rick, RFI Rélations Publiques, Paris, Sept. 4 letter to Matthew Brown, WI) The expansion of RFI will be discussed by the government probably in November. As far as we are informed, now (sic) changes will be made in 1979, that means no extension to the western hemisphere. We do hope to have the possibility to improve the actual transmission of France Inter in French but surely not in Spanish or English before 1980. The support of your RFI Listeners Club is of great value to us. We are collecting all the petitions of your members as well as the letters of other American listeners in order to prepare a special document meant to prove to our government that there are really interested listeners who wish a special transmission of RFI for the USA.

G R E E C E (Victor Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka) VOG is my favourite station as it plays such a lot of beautiful music. 0200-0400 9610 11730 beamed to North America comes so nice here in South Asia that it's breakfast with Athens for me.

H A I T I (Stewart West, 4VEH) On July 29, 4VEH returned to the air on the international SW bands on 9770 and 11835 kHz after an absence of some months. Mardy Picazo, our C.E., returned to Haiti in June with new components, and in about a month of steady work rebuilt and up-dated this transmitter with the double finals which he originally built nearly 20 years ago. The storm-damaged 25 meter band Quad antenna was completely rebuilt on top of its 90-foot tower. This rotatable antenna at present is beamed NNW in the mornings and



Monday – Friday
Eastern Standard Time

5:00 a.m. SPANISH BROADCASTS

6:00 (Mon) Hour of Decision
(Tue) Unshackled
(Wed) They Came to Britain
(Thu) Personally Speaking
(Fri) Bread of Life
6:15 (Wed, Thu, Fri) Guidelines
6:20 (Wed) Let's Find Out
(Thu) Thoughts for the Inner Man
(Fri) Alphabet Series
6:30 Haven of Rest
7:00 World News & Weather
Bulletin Board
7:15 (Mon) Stories of Great Christians
(Tue, Thu) Psychology for Living
(Wed) God's News Behind the News
(Fri) Music
7:30 Music Along the Way
8:00 Thru the Bible
8:30 Family Altar of the Air
9:00 News Headlines & Weather
9:05 English Sign Off

3:00 p.m. SPANISH BROADCASTS

6:30 p.m. Music
6:35 Guidelines for Family Living
6:45 Stories of Great Christians
7:00 (Mon) A Quiet Place
(Tue) Unshackled
(Wed) Children's Gospel Hour
Eventide
(Thu) Children's Bible Hour
(Fri) Ralph Carmichael Special
7:30 English Sign Off

Radio 4VEH

Saturday

5:00 a.m. SPANISH BROADCASTS

6:00 a.m. Music Along the Way
6:30 The Hobby of Kings
6:45 Stories of Great Christians
7:00 World News and Weather
Bulletin Board
7:15 Joy of Living
7:30 Boys and Girls for Jesus
7:45 Bible Adventures
8:00 Children's Bible Hour
8:30 Children's Corner
9:00 English Sign Off

3:00 p.m. SPANISH BROADCASTS

6:30 p.m. Today's Question
6:45 Show Me a Penny
7:00 In the Garden
7:30 English Sign Off

Sunday

5:00 a.m. SPANISH BROADCASTS

6:00 a.m. Joyful Melodies
6:15 World Religious News
6:30 Christian Life Hour
7:00 World News and Weather
Bulletin Board
7:15 Sar Shalom
7:30 Radio Bible Class
8:00 Hymns for Worship
8:15 Good News Broadcast
8:30 Your Worship Hour
9:00 English Sign Off

12:00 Hour of Decision
Guidelines for Living
12:30 p.m. Unshackled
1:00 Music Along the Way
1:30 Word of Life
2:00 Moody Presents
2:30 Sounds of Joy
2:45 Way to Life

3:00 p.m. SPANISH BROADCASTS

6:30 p.m. Psychology for Living
6:45 Fortress of Faith
7:00 Songs in the Night
7:30 English Sign Off

WNW in the afternoons and evenings. The 31mb dipole antenna is about 35 feet above ground with ends pointing east and west. The power of the rebuilt transmitter is about 2100 watts to the antenna on each frequency. We know there is interference to Radio 4VEH in many areas, and we are planning for changes to improve this situation. We will announce these as they are ready to go into operation. Beginning in November we hope to have new programs in which you can have a part. We would be interested in hearing your ideas which might be used on such programs. Our prayer is that we can serve our listeners with programs which help spiritual growth and understanding, and as Paul wrote in Ephesians 3: 16-17 NIV: "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith..." Thank you for your reception reports and other comments which we find of great interest. Yours to proclaim God's Word, (via Daniel Prisco)

I N D I A (G.P.L. Srivastava, All India Radio External Service Division Audience Research Officer for Director, New Delhi, Sept. 29 letter to gh) Subject: Panel Survey. The Audience Research Unit of this division intends to conduct a panel survey and a systematic feed-back to our different broadcast beamed for U.S.A. The panel members would have to be requested off and on to fill up the structured schedules, hence their prior consent is essentially to be obtained for enrolment of their names into the panel. It is therefore, requested that the names of your club members interested to be-

come panel member may be sent to me by name along with their postal address and other bio-data if easily available with you. I shall be grateful for the cooperation and assistance rendered by you in this regard. Yours faithfully,

gh: That's what the letter says. "USA" was a filled-in blank. It's news to me if they have any transmission actually beamed to the USA. Our procedures and practices are not quite as he imagines, so I suggest that any RIB readers who can actually listen to AIR on a regular basis, and would like to participate in the panel, contact him directly at Box 500, New Delhi.

I R A N (P. Barta, Ont.) On reading J. Weber's note in the July RIB, I immediately tuned to 15084 (Sept. 10, 0510-0615) and sure enough, Teheran came in. I became addicted to their music while living in Paris, 1976-77. It could be received around midnight there, interspersed with what sounded like highly sensual poetry (in Farsi), and news on the half-hour. Didn't realize I can get it here too.

I S R A E L (Louis Goldstein, MA) Michael Shafir is getting to be a most prolific contributor to IBA. Quite a number of transmissions feature him as on the air broadcaster and/or producer of a variety of segments. Wonder if the theme music for STUDIO THREE was deliberately chosen as duplicate used by Wm. F. Buckley's FIRING LINE show aired stateside on NPR? For those who can get IBA at 1200 UTC they can get following features: Sun, KALEIDOSCOPE. Mon, SPECTRUM & GOODLY HERITAGE. Tue, alternately MAINSTREAM and TIME OUT. Wed, ?. Thu, STUDIO THREE. Fri, THANK GOODNESS IT'S FRIDAY. Sat, THIS WEEK.

gh: I think a Bach Brandenburg Concerto has more going for it than being excerpted to theme two programs. FIRING LINE is NOT carried by NPR. It is on PBS (TV), and individual public radio stations. Until recently, the radio tape distribution was handled by WUOT.

(P. Barta, Ont.) Since the end of August, I find 15485 getting increasingly unreliable, 11625 and 11655 not much better, but 9815 improving (15485 has been very good throughout the summer, so I used it exclusively). I am referring to the English program at 2230. There are now two new weekly programs in the broadcast, FORUM on Wed, and KALEIDOSCOPE, on Mondays. gh: Typical seasonal reception variations.

N E T H E R L A N D S (Victor Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka) Happy Station--is it boring, sleepy as some of you so often make it out? Not one bit if you are part of the show. The mail-calls, the personal touch, the music, the 'hello over there, thanks for the nice card. It is lovely. Hope you are enjoying your 26th birthday over there in Dunedin..." etc., makes it so personal. If you don't ever write to it then sure you are out of it. It's a family show. I loved the show with Eddy Startz as he was so natural. Tom is not bad at all but his very frequent mmmmm, ahhh makes it slow moving. I'd like to see him doing at least 15 minutes of preparation before the show. It's like a teacher walking into a classroom without any preparation and depending on his knowledge to carry him thru. If Tom stops reading out names and sending mail calls the show will sink in popularity.

gh: R. Nederland may have reduced its programs, but now has expanded its English program guide. Sketches of each program and photo of the presenters. A 12-page stapled folder!!

N E W Z E A L A N D (Chris Hambly, Victoria) R. New Zealand at 2040 GMT Saturday, our Sunday, has a program HYMNS FOR SUNDAY. Those who don't like religion as HCJB does it, may like the way this program gives a good insight into English choirs, of which I am a great fan. But I have not heard it for some time due to frequencies being jammed.

(Tony King, NZ) You may not know, but the SW service is a 1½ man affair from the programme/management end. Local creations and breakouts are managed by Geoff Haggett and he gets his daily glory by doing the ID announcements and close offs each day via cassette at the transmitter. The Overseas unit at most times concentrates on magazine programs for eight Pacific broadcasting services via cassette. DX mail receives a very critical analysis--in this day and age perhaps too much attention--and Haggett is determined to maintain a high standard of reporting which I admire. Every report or letter gets an acknowledgement of some sort, which must cost a packet in postage! Every letter or report is tabulated

and filed by country for the big day the Treasury announces a feasibility study of upping the power of RNZ and 'going serious' on SW. The coverage of the vintage equipment is quite astounding and this last ten months we've hit Europe regularly in the 19 and 16 meter bands.

I'm not employed by RNZ. I'm Sales Manager with Air New Zealand, so much of the NZ paraphenalia that goes out comes from us. I'm also an amateur printer and the 30th anniversary QSLs, pennants, overprinted QSLs, are my work. Printed on a hand fed treadled platen of 1880 vintage, made in USA. Collectors pieces even from a printing point of view! All type hand set letter by letter.

RNZ is very pro-DXer, and up until a few months ago I used to advise all recipients of a call on my programme in advance so they could listen in. Offered many a cassette copy of the programme too. Must be a unique service!

P O L A N D (Roger N. Peterson, CT) Thanks to the Sept. RIB quick-reference guide, I am now able to receive this station very well. Seems best on 15120 at 0200 GMT.

R O M A N I A (Ed Wyatt, Alta., Oct. CANDX "Feedback") R. Bucharest has these programs to North America at 0130-0230: Mon, YOUTH CLUB & DX PROGRAM. Tue, IDEAS IN ACTION, TOURIST NEWS, FAVORITE TUNES. Wed, ROMANIAN MUSICIANS, LET'S TALK IT OVER, DX MAILBAG. Thu, THE SKYLARK, SPORTS MAGAZINE, SCIENCE MAGAZINE, PAGES OF HISTORY. Fri, YOUTH CLUB, DX PROGRAM. Sat, CULTURAL SURVEY. Sun, SUNDAY STUDIO.

And at 0400-0430 GMT: Mon, IDEAS IN ACTION, SPORTS ROUNDUP. Tues, ROMANIA TODAY AND TOMORROW. Wed, FRIENDSHIP-COOPERATION. Thu, LISTENER'S LETTERBOX. Fri, MY FRIEND SPEAKS ROMANIAN. Sat, TOURIST NEWS. Sun, CULTURAL SURVEY.

To join the R. Bucharest Listeners Club, send in one report per month and at the end of the first year, you will get a diploma and Listener's Club Badge. Reports must include the following data: day and hour of monitoring, frequency or wavelength, program details and technical rating in SINPO or any other internationally accepted code. Twelve more reports, monthly during the second year, get you a special 'old timer' label to be stuck on the diploma. The second diploma of the listener's club will follow after another year, with another label of a different colour for the fourth year of membership. And after one more year, you get the third diploma, the Honorary Diploma. All in all, that means a period of five years and 60 reports. Those having fulfilled these conditions will become honorary members of the club and will receive publications, literature, and other materials on Romania, as well as surprise gifts.

S O U T H A F R I C A (Richard Stoller, NY) I am sure all of the RIB readership is happy that R. RSA is moving to 0200. But I still think that what they need is a steady listenership, something they are not likely to achieve at 0200. Still a source of laughter is R. RSA External Service newscasts. When they begin to go into long tirades on what an honourable man and what a fantastic guy John Connally is, you know he's visiting RSA. Hmmm, wasn't he Mr. "Milk Deals" of 1973?

(Ken MacHarg, IN) I'm glad to see Radio RSA on at a better time for North America. Of course I totally disagree with their defense of apartheid, but it's interesting to hear their views. This week, in their paranoid way, they lumped together anyone who opposed their policies under the title communist. A bit extreme, I would think. But then, when I graduated from seminary, someone told me that I could not consider myself as having made it in the ministry until I was called a communist. That finally happend about 3 years ago, and was the same to me as if I had been placed on the Nixon Enemies List--a real mark of prestige! Anyhow, it's good to hear RSA again. They carried Vorster's resignation press conference, almost in its totality. Very interesting!

gh: Well, I liked the old time of 2230. Too much competition from other stations and activities at 0200! Actually, they should be on at both times, if they could afford it.

S W E D E N (Roger Wirt, MA) Holman asked about receiving Sweden with the RF-2800. Using RIB's new schedule, I tuned it in with an RF2200 at 0040 GMT Sept 18 on 11905; here in MA it was 'loud & clear' without even extending the whip antenna. I would expect similar performance from the RF-2800. The RF-2200 clearly competes with my Drake SSR-1.

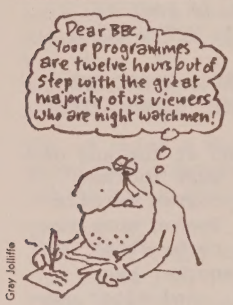
(Roger N. Peterson, CT) I don't have a RF-2800 but I do have RF-2200 and usually do not have any trouble in tuning to the station. There are times, however, when I can't get a clear signal even with my SSR-1 with big antenna.

gh: I hope everybody realizes that there is no 'magic' receiver which will enable one to get any particular station as this discussion implies. Each station has its own particular and changing problems of interference and propagation, which can have a greater bearing on reception quality than the type of receiver.

U G A N D A (Richard M. Utter, NY) I hadn't been hearing Kampala, but it looks like I tuned them in on their days off or something. When I checked Sept. 12, they were on, and featuring their very worst announcer. The fellow sounds as if he's trying to swallow the microphone.

gh: Tho the photocopy of the UBC sked I had for last month's RIB showed only Mon/Tue/Wed to NAm at 0300-0400, and tho UBC does only broadcast 3 or 4 days a week to other target areas, I think this one is supposed to be daily.

U K O G B A N I (Lenny Saaf, IL) If you don't like to stay up until 0530 or 0730 to hear Sarah Ward, try SARAH AND COMPANY at 2115 on Fri. It runs until 2145 and is usually best on 15070. I recommend 7325 kHz for WS evening programming. It usually has little or no QRM and the audio is good. To North America from 2245 to 0330.


Dear BBC,
Your programmes are twelve hours out of step with the great majority of us viewers who are night watchmen!
Gray Jolliffe
Radio Times 29 July via David Walcutt

(Mark Basick, CA) The BBC WS did have some very interesting discussion on the birth ot the test tube baby. It dealt with the moral implications of this birth and the discussion was tremendous. All this on REPORT ON RELIGION ! Some prominant church figures offered some varied and conflicting views. I only wish that it wasn't only 15 minutes long.

gh: Yes, some of the best programming on religion comes from the BBC; in the tradition of THE LONG SEARCH now running on PBS-TV, is THE WAY OF EVERYMAN, examining a different faith each week, Sats 1130, Suns 1830, Mons 2330. In November, Islam, Marxism, Zen Buddhism, and on 25-27th, "Rapturous melodies of the Divine Word--Sikhism". I'm also enjoying SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU, apparently a last-minute title change from THE TRIBAL EYE, fascinating stories behind anthropologic artifacts, Sats 2100, Mons 0315 & 1715 and Tues 0745, but replaced in November by ONE MAN's LIFETIME, scientists looking over the advances of the past 50 years, including radio astronomer Sir Bernard Lovell, on Nov. 25 ff. Problems facing the world fishing industry are covered in two THE SHRINKING SHOALS programs, Nov 7 & 14 1430, 9 & 16 0330, 10 & 17 2030--IN DISTANT WATERS and WHEN THE BOATS COME IN. WHEN NATURE FALTERS covers Dyslexia, Autism, The Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida, in Nov, Suns 0745, Tues 0100, Weds 1115. REITH LECTURES this year are given by Rev Dr E.R. Norman, on a new perspective of Christian activity in politics and society--in six installments beginning in November, Tues 2115, Weds 0230 & 1430. Following in Nov in the MANY REASONS WHY slot are POETRY programs on 13ff and 27ff, and one about SCHUBERT 20ff. BRAIN OF BRITAIN ends in October to be followed in November by ANIMAL, VEGETABLE OR MINERAL, Suns 0330, Tues 0830, Weds 1215, Thurs 1830. In the RADIO THEATRE slot during November are THE BRONTËS OF HAWORTH, by Christopher Fry, Suns 1915, Fris 0030, 1330.

(Chris Hambly, Victoria) Another program I like to listen to is SUNDAY HALF HOUR at 2030. A good example of how religious music should be played, not the way HCJB does it.

U S A (gh) If all goes well, FINE ARTS RADIO will come to American shortwave November 3. A patron of arts has acquired air time on WINB, to present GMT Saturdays at 0100 MUSIC FROM OBERLIN; GMT Sundays 0100 CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA POP CONCERTS, 0200 ADVENTURES IN GOOD MUSIC WITH KARL HAAS. Presumably the frequency will remain 15145. Though beamed to South America this 50 kW transmitter can also be heard in many parts of North America that are not too close to southeastern Pennsylvania; and other parts of the world. A special address will be given for the all-important listener response, which will determine whether this 13-week experiment continues beyond January. It could be the start of something big. At last, something besides government, military-commercial, and religious hucksterism on US SW !!

VOA PROGRAM GUIDE (reprinted from CANDX)

NEW HORIZONS - Reports on late developments and innovations, primarily in science, medicine, and technology. - Sundays @ 1115 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1515 to S. Asia, 1915 to Europe and Middle East. Monday @ 0115 to Latin America.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK - Informal conversations with a cross-section of the people who live and work in and visit New York City - actors, musicians, cab drivers, authors, businessmen and journalists, to mention a few. - Saturdays @ 1430 to E. & S. Asia & Pacific, 1730 to Africa, 1830 to Europe and Middle East.

CRITICS CHOICE - The Arts in America. Discussions and critiques of literature, theatre, painting, dance, cinema, architecture, sculpture, music, etc. - Sundays @ 1315 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1315 & 1715 to S. Asia, 1715 & 2115 to Middle East, 2115 to Europe and Africa. Monday @ 0015 to Latin America.

CONCERT HALL - Concert Music of all periods presented by leading American musical artists and orchestras of today, sometimes including music recorded "live" at festivals. Host Lyndan Farmer interviews artists, conductors and composers. - Sundays @ 1215 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1615 to S. Asia, 2015 to Europe and Middle East, 2215 to Africa.

SPECIAL ENGLISH - Fifteen minute world news reports, usually followed by fifteen minute science, history and cultural feature programs. Prepared with a vocabulary based on two thousand frequently used words in English. The grammatical structure is simple and rate of delivery is slow. - Daily @ 0000 to Latin America, 1400 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1400 & 1600 to S. Asia, 1800 & 2000 to Europe & Middle East, 1800 & 2200 to Africa.

"Words and Their Stories" is a five-minute Special English Feature which explains origins and meanings of American idioms. Other features are People in America, The Making of a Nation, Science in the News, Space and Man, The Living Earth, Short Stories.

VOA MAGAZINE SHOW - Half-hour of features and interviews on Americana, science, education, cultural affairs, and human interest. - Monday to Friday @ 1330 to East Asia & Pacific, 1330 & 1530 to South Asia, 1930 to Europe and the Middle East, 2130 to Africa. Tuesday to Saturday @ 0030 to Latin America.

PRESS CONFERENCE USA - A leading figure in the news faces a panel of distinguished American and foreign journalists, with William McCrory as moderator. - Saturdays @ 1130 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1530 to S. Asia, 1830 to Africa, 1930 to Europe and Middle East. Sunday @ 0030 to Latin America.

THIS WEEK - A review of the week's top news events, by VOA correspondents around the world. - Saturdays @ 1100 to E. Asia & the Pacific, 1500 to S. Asia, 1900 to Europe and the Middle East. Sunday @ 0010 to Latin America.

NEW PRODUCTS USA - Based on U.S. Department of Commerce reports on new American consumer and industrial products appearing on international markets. Listeners are invited to query the Commercial Officer at their nearest U. S. Embassy or Consulate for further details, addresses. - Sundays @ 1300 toEEast Asia & the Pacific, 1300 & 1700 to S. Asia, 1700 & 2100 to the Middle East, 2100 to Europe and Africa. Mondays @ 0100 to Latin America.

VOA PROGRAM GUIDE continued

THE BREAKFAST SHOW - News, Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Comment, News Summary. An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions. Science Digest - Daily @ 2200-0100 to E. Asia & Pacific, 0100-0330 to S. Asia, 0300-0630 to Middle East, 0300-0700 to Europe, 0400-0600 to Africa.

NEWS ROUNDUP - Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary - Mondays-Fridays @ 2240-2300 to Africa, 1100-1130 & 1300-1330 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1300-1330 & 1500-1530 & 1700-1730 to S. Asia, 1700-1730 & 1900-1930 to Europe and the Middle East. Tuesday to Saturday @ 0100-0130 to Latin America

VOA WORLD REPORT - News..newsmakers voices.. correspondents reports ..background features..media comments..news analyses. - Monday to Friday @ 2100-2130 to Africa, 2100-2200 to Europe and the Middle East.

WEEKEND - Saturday @ 1300-1400 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1300-1400 & 1700-1800 to S. Asia, 1700-1800 & 2100-2200 to Europe and the Middle East. Sunday at 0100-0200 to Latin America.

DATELINE - Monday to Thursday @ 1130-1200 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1730-1800 to Europe & Middle East, 1830-1900 to Africa. Tuesday to Friday @ 0130-0200 to Latin America.

FORUM - Fridays @ 1130-1200 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1730-1800 to Europe and S. Asia & Middle East, 1830-1900 to Africa. Saturday @ 0130 -0200 to Latin America.

ISSUES IN THE NEWS - Sundays @ 1130-1200 to E. Asia, 1530-1600 to S. Asia, 1830-1900 to Africa, 1930-2000 to Europe & Middle East. Monday @ 0030-0100 to Latin America.

STUDIO ONE - Sunday @ 1330-1400 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1730-1800 to Europe, & S. Asia, 2130-2200 to Europe, Middle East & Africa. Monday @ 0130-0200 to Latin America.

MUSIC USA -STANDARDS- Sun-Mon 1430-1500 to E. & S. Asia & Pacific, 1730-1800 to Africa, 1830-1900 to Europe and the Middle East. Also on Monday @ 2210-2240 to Africa.

NOW MUSIC USA - Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday @ same time as Music USA (Standards).

COUNTRY MUSIC USA - Friday @ same times as Standards.

MUSIC USA - JAZZ - Monday to Saturday @ 1215-1300 to E. Asia & Pacific, 1615 -1700 to S. Asia, 2015-2100 to Europe & Middle East. Saturday only @ 2215-2245 to Africa.

The following programs are directed to Africa

AFRICAN SAFARI - News, Music, Features, Interviews, Special Reports on Economic Development, Science & Technology, Nutrition & Health, Farmers' Forum, Answers to Listeners' letters - Daily @ 0300-0400, & 0630-0730.

AFRICAN PANORAMA - Evening "front page" for Africa News..Background Reports..Correspondents Roundup..voices and sounds of people and events ..press comments on Africa..News Analyses.."UN Week in Review". - Daily at 1600-1635.

AFRICANA - Evening magazine for Africa - News, Music Features - Daily at 1700-1730, 1900-1930 &2000-2100 .. (John Garner)

(Victor Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka) The best programmes that come from VOA as far as I'm concerned are in Special English. THE LIVING EARTH has for years interested me with its stories about ancient people, tribes, etc. Another is THE AMERICAN SHORT STORY. These simple little stories are really great, and it's great entertainment, making it impossible to tune away.

(Marty Delfín, TX) According to Oct. Playboy, live jazz is returning to the airwaves on NPR stations across the country. For a complete list of jazz tapings, times and the NPR station in your area write: National Public Radio, 2025 M St NW, Washington, DC 20036. gh: JAZZ ALIVE never left; has been around for some time.

(Louis Goldstein, MA) Have noted that quality of programming has not improved since AFRTS got its reprieve. Scheduled programs not aired, music fill substituted on some occasions. At other times a program may start, then, without explanation, music fill. Another innovation is to cut away from scheduled show before completion and go to PSA and music fill. One early morning, recently, they really went all the way--the same show repeated three times; as soon as it would finish it looped in again. Not being a bashful individual, I wrote AFRTS Chief, Broadcast Division with above noted complaints and a few others, as well as some questions raised in RIB. Response to some and lack of response to others. Freq schedule only sent after two inquiries and wait of three weeks. No response to complaint about stateside transmitters closing down at 1400-1800 UTC and subsequent (consequent? gh) inability to hear program notes. In letter dated Sept. 19, Hoyt L. Wertz responded:

"There are two reasons for the 7-second delay (which is now 6 seconds): a) It provides time for the time announcements from the National Bureau of Standards on both the hour and half hour. b) Live sports from the sources utilized by AFRTS Washington are filled with commercials. The only sure way to eliminate them is by the use of the 6-second delay.

"AFRTS-W has not eliminated the use of 'as required' frequencies... Normally, however, AFRTS-W is only off the air on SW during hours when it is highly unlikely there will be any play-by-play sports, the principal need for 'as required' frequencies in the past."

They included 5-page Fact Sheet. What I'd like to learn is what type of background persons putting on shows at AFRT, do they need FCC license, what kind of equipment do they have. What is power rating on transmitters, etc.

gh: Working at a military or government station, it is not necessary to have an FCC license, as these are out of its jurisdiction. Naturally, the fact that you have a First Class ticket would still enhance your qualifications for a technical job. The question is irrelevant at AFRTS-Washington, anyway, since they are a production center, not an xmtr.

(Ken MacHarg, IN) News bias--response from CBS and ABC. As a follow-up to my comments last month about subtle bias in news terminology, I wrote to both ABC and CBS to express these ideas. From both I received a printed form reply of the 'thank you for your letter, we read them all, sorry for the form reply' variety. Really a personal touch there! So my idea of a beneficial dialog with the networks is dead.

In August RIB was a comment that nets don't care if local stations carry the programs as long as they carry the commercials. So true--I work part time at a local station producing and hosting a talk show. They are moving to a new music format, which may mean the elimination of ABC news--but I am assured they will carry the ABC commercials. Which I suppose is OK if you're big on commercials and don't care about the news. Made me think of a couple of other possibilities: like, why not drop the sportscasts, and just carry the commercials, or for that matter, why program at all--just turn on the transmitter for a couple of hours a day and run the commercials. They could save a lot of money on electricity that way, not counting DJ salaries, etc.!! I haven't suggested that to the management yet; I'm afraid they might drop my program and just run the commercials.

(Mark Giorgi, NY) One of the very best stations to catch for intriguing phone-in talk is WBZ Boston, 1030 kHz, 50 kW. Each weekday three different talk shows occupy a straight 11½ hours, from 6 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. local time.

THE PAUL BENZAQUIN SHOW, 9pm to Midnight is excellent. The program usually centers on social issues. The host is knowledgeable and very personable--a welcome combination. Even if he has heatedly disagreed with a caller, he makes a point of thanking the person for phoning in and they rarely part in anger. Paul is deft at maintaining a balance by playing the devil's advocate.

At midnight, LARRY ("The Commander") GLICK signs on until 5:30 a.m. The slow is less issue-oriented than its predecessor; most calls result in conversations that are partly personal and partly discussion. Calls often focus on religion (Larry's Jewish) and mental phenomena such as agoraphobia (this term is used on WBZ to designate not merely fear of open spaces, the strict definition of the word, but refers in particular to one's fear of public places and situations). Parapsychology is also frequently a subject. By day, Larry Glick is a professional and stage hypnotist. He provides some of the most entertaining wee-hour fare in the northeast, with fellow New England powerhouse WTIC-1080 Hartford a close second. WBZ can be heard in nearly the entire eastern half of the U.S. during darkness.

gh: THE SKYWAVE BULLETIN is a new publication, which should interest RIB readers who like to listen to clear-channel AM stations. In a single weekly sheet are schedules of such stations, a different group each week. It's just starting up, only 8 issues so far, and has a lot of potential. The dim reproduction seems to have improved since my comment in October NASWA Listeners Notebook was written. If you're interested, send a SASE for a sample to THE SKYWAVE BULLETIN, Gordon Byrd, Jr., 1410 W. Sligh Ave., Tampa, FL 33604. So far only eastern-US stations are covered, plus some regionals audible in Florida, but further regional editions are planned. Subscriptions are available either for 13 or 26 weeks.

U S S R (Mark Basick, CA) I just received from R. Moscow some copies of the English periodical "Moscow News". The stories in this 15-page-plus-inserts, weekly newspaper sound very much like the slop on RM broadcasts. Lots on anit-N-bomb, human rights in USSR, etc. I believe that this is a fair representation of what Muscovites have available to keep them up to date. One really has to feel sorry for them. In the July 1 edition, the sports column was devoted to the visit by Muhammad Ali. A copy of a handwritten message allegedly from Ali was reproduced: "As-Salaam Aleikum. I want the people of the USSR to know that we had a great welcome here in the USSR, and we hope to return someday to see the people of this country. If any of you ever come to the USA, I live in Chicago. Come and see me. My address is 4744 Woods Lane (??) one. Your USA friend always, Muhammad Ali, June 16, 1978."

I'll have to drop in and see "the greatest" next time I'm in the neighborhood...

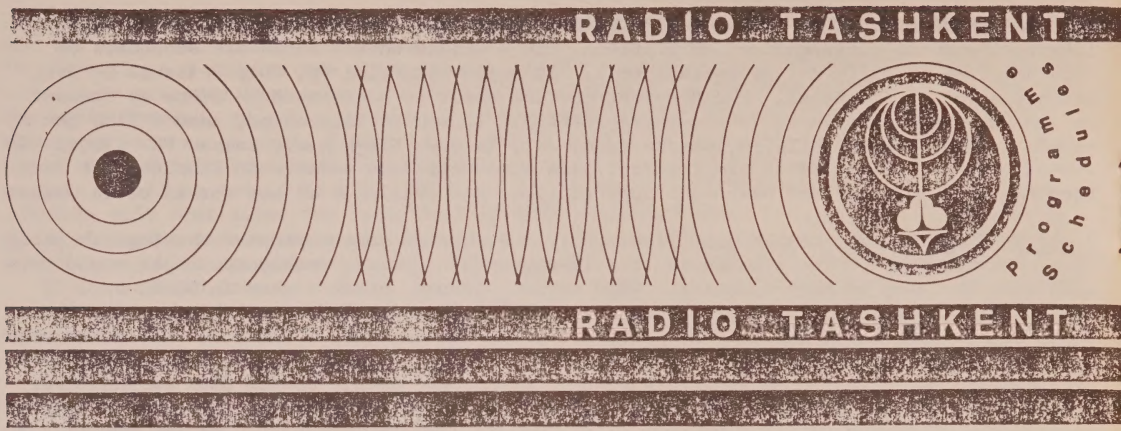
(Arthur S. Getzel, NY) Everytime I happen to pass R. Moscow when they are broadcasting their program WHAT IS COMMUNISM, I feel like I am having déjà vu. I continually hear the same diatribe week after week, and word-for-word. It's like I say, if you are going to broadcast propaganda, at least be original!

(Diane S. Lévesque, IL) I'd like to say something about what Rich Stoller said about holding a discussion with Radio Moscow, Lévesque-style. There's a world of difference between a religious station and a communist station when it comes to that sort of thing. You can get the best response from a religious station when you show them you need all the saving you can get. The more 'heathen' you are, if you sound half-way open-minded, the more they like to talk to you. Communists, on the other hand, have to be saccharinely buttered up and complimented before they'll talk to you, because then that makes you just a 'misguided citizen of the imperialist country'. Come on strong with indisputable evidence and you chase 'em off into a defenisve corner and they'll never talk to you straight after that. R. Moscow is a bad one to start off with, because they will always answer your letter on the air, and that means they gotta sound good to themselves in keeping with how they're supposed to sound to the public. For starters, I recommend my favorite, Radio Banana (oops, Havana), or RBI or one of those little ones. You can't mess with Moscow too much, but it can be done occasionally, if you're careful about how you comment on a given subject. You just gotta avoid 'viciously attacking' anything; kinda sneak up a sly comment or observation in a conversation on something else, non-political, friendly. Sometimes they fall over their feet 'cause they don't know how to take what you've written.

(Richard Stoller, NY) Maybe I'll have another go with R. Moscow on the facts of politics and life. But with Pozner, not Kuznetsov. Pozner seems smarter.

(Paul Kuznetsov, R. Moscow, gave this self-portrait on his DX program in response to a listener's question; closely paraphrased by gh, but not verbatim:) I'm the age of Jesus Christ when he was crucified, and I want to get past this point as quick as possible. I'm in my seventh year with Radio Moscow. Married, 5 year old son. In another two years he'll go to school and I really dread it because it'll be another 10 years of schooling for me as I'll have to do some of his homework. I learned English at a foreign languages college here in Moss-cow. My second language was French, but it's really awful. When I was nine, my parents sent me to a school of music, where I was in a violin class. I didn't make a musician; I flunked my 6th year exam and that has taught me not to fiddle. When I watch a sentimental movie I have lumps in my throat.

gh: I still hear otherwise unattributed DX news items on his show, that by their content, wording and timing are clearly plagiarized from Sweden Calling DXers--and thru SCDX at times, ultimately from the BBC Monitoring Service! RM has also invented a "World Service"!



RADIO TASHKENT - 78 QUIZ. R. Tashkent invites you to take part in its traditional quiz. Participants in the "Tashkent-78" radio quiz are invited to write an essay on the subject: What do you know about Soviet Uzbekistan?

Your essay must be about Uzbekistan's achievements in socio-economic and cultural development, the civil aviation of the republic, our international tourist centres, the Uzbek Friendship Society's contribution to peace, friendship and cooperation between the people of our republic and those in other countries.

For the winners of the "Tashkent-78" quiz there will be the following prizes:

First prize - a ten day free trip to Uzbekistan.

Second prizes (2) - a five day free trip to Tashkent and Samarkand.

Apart from that there will be twelve third prizes--Uzbek national souvenirs and sixty consolatinn prizes.

To help listeners in their answers, Radio Tashkent will organize special programmes. When summing up results, preference will be given to essays containing the most correct answers, interesting facts, a well written languages (sic) and colourful illustrations. The essay must not be more than 10-12 pages.

Special attention will be paid to listeners knowledge of Radio Tashkent programmes and ability to use them in the essay. It must be sent not later than the 31 March 1979. The results will be announced in the middle of May 1979. Our address is: Radio Tashkent, English Section, Tashkent, Uzbek Republic, USSR.

R. Tashkent broadcasts daily at 1200 & 1400 GMT on 15460, 15115, 11925, 11730 kHz. (expected to shift to lower winter frequencies shortly --gh)

FORUM ON OTHER TOPICS

MISSIONARY BROADCASTERS (Victor Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka) The more I read the comments on these in RIB, the more I am convinced that the people who are against them wouldn't like them in any form if they broadcast Christianity. But there are people who appreciate them and like them very much. From RIB a great deal of constructive criticism has come about the programme style, etc. However, I find it so sad when people just get their 'hate' into paper about these stations. Unlike some political broadcasters, they rarely throw malice and hate at someone. They talk love and they are trying to share something they really believe in. We can't stop the gospel broadcasters and the West can't stop R. Moscow or P&Progress and they can't stop the Human Rights angle and the West's broadcast style. So, I feel it will be so nice if we try to as much as possible play down our personal angle and think of the broadcasters!

(Arthur S. Getzel, NY) I often do enjoy listening to the many religious stations on SW.

They always give me a good chuckle. Sometimes without realizing it, they are often funny. One time, over WINB, I heard a preacher who in his sermon denounced mankind so violently, you just had to hate him. But afterwards, he of course asked for donations so he could continue to preach "Christian love to all the world." But my favorite sermon was heard over HRVC when a preacher proclaimed that Christ was coming next week. However, that was two months ago!!!

W O M E N & D X i n g (Victor Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka) Diane seems to have created quite a lot of activity in this field. In Sri Lanka one of the pioneers and great helpers in forming our first DX Club was a YL DXer very much interested in QSLs, and a decade and a half ago Margarete Hinkson of Haiti was another great one. My XYL is a great help in putting out the DX bulletin and in my professional monitoring. Has 2 communications receivers and two more portables in the bedroom, but with all that SWL bombardment, I have yet to see her tune even once to SW! Same goes for 4 sisters at my parents' home. But my younger brother did take to DXing and is very active. Women and DXing don't seem to go together. And if any of you guys are wishing you'd have a DXer wife, hell it would be. I knew how awful DXers are on the general home folks when I went to my parents' place the other day--- tried getting some sleep and found my brother DXing away! But still my XYL says it's nice to be married to a DXer as he stays home more than others although at times he is so near yet so far away!

(Arthur S. Getzel, NY) For the past year, the DXing community has been asking itself why aren't there more YLs in the hobby. Well, I have my own pet theory. Women just hate those SW radios. The reason is very simple. How could you relate to an object that has a habit of stealing away masculine affection? Yes, how many lonely nights have our ladies spent because of some radio. We men lavish such love and affection on our rigs that, of course, it can only lead to jealousy on the part of our women. See, women can only relate to a SW radio one way--as a competitor!!!

P O S T A L T A M P E R I N G (John Fisher, MA) I keep hearing stories that the good ole U.S. government has ended tampering with foreign mail. I just wish it were true. I received a program schedule and reception report forms from Radio Sofia, with glue spilled over everything, ruining the sked as well as the forms. My mailings from R. Peking were slit open and tied up with cheap brown string. Funny! My mail from R. Prague was also slit open and tied with the same type of string, in the exact same manner as the mail from Peking. Most of my mail from the communist countries (and sometimes from the non-communist ones) is tampered with. I hate to disappoint Uncle Sam, but I am not a communist spy, revolutionary or dangerous element. I'm just an SWL enjoying my hobby.

(Arthur S. Getzel, NY) For the past decade, I too have had the honor of having my mail snooped by the Feds. It has happened so much that it does not bother me anymore. If the Feds want to waste time and money investigating my mail, so be it. To me, all they are proving is how inept and stupid they are. To give an example, last month I received some info from Adrian Peterson in Sri Lanka. The manila envelope he sent to me was opened on all sides. The package would have fallen apart if it weren't for a few strands of tape. Now why would the feds be interested in an envelope from Adventist World Radio? Either they think Sri Lanka and AWR are communist or they are suffering a severe case of paranoia. However, I am inclined to believe it is a severe case of lunacy.

(John E. Swanson, CA) In the early sixties I was receiving all sorts of mail from eastern European countries as the result of requests to their shortwave media for program schedules. In 1963 I enlisted in the army and after I left home my mother filed a change-of-address form for me with the PO. At that time the PO forwarded all classes of mail, so I began receiving all the magazines and other junk at my army units.

One day, while I was stationed in Korea, I went on sick call. When I returned I found that army 'intelligence' had swooped down on my unit during my absence and questioned everyone who knew me or knew of me. From that time until my discharge there was no mail of that type delivered to me. Moreover, I later found out that those nice intelligence fellows had questioned everyone else who had ever known me in or out of the army.

I still write for and receive program schedules from these countries, and as often as not it appears not to have been left unopened. Often it is handled as 'registered mail' by our Post Office and I must sign for it. But, alas, I've resigned myself to these little inconveniences. I suppose that's one price I must pay to be a SWL. My only hope is that those sweet snoopers don't waste too much of our tax money keeping my file up to date.

S W L v s. D X (Bob Padula, Victoria, July Australian DX News) I would suggest to all members that they adopt some sort of personal hobby objective, whether relating to band monitoring, the study of propagation patterns, scheduling, frequency occupancy, or merely the collecting of QSLs. I hope to achieve the 5000 SW QSL mark in the next 12 months! These, taken singly or collectively, are what true DXing is all about, contrary to what one has read in the DX media overseas recently, which seems to have gone berserk with the obsessions on 'program listening'. SWLing is a completely distinct hobby, but some common elements as DXing contains, and it should always be remembered that one does not have to belong to a DX club to know what the latest VOA frequencies are.... Some of the larger stations are now demanding 'program comments' in reports before issuing QSLs. DX stands for distance (nothing more) and there is nothing in the term to suggest that a DXer MUST listen to a station SOLELY to get its message. The present 'innovative' QSL policies being introduced by some stations are making a mockery out of the traditional and accepted objectives of serious DXing.

W H A T I S A D X e r ? (Diane S. Lévesque, IL) Hard-core hobbyists are lone wolves, even the married ones, and among them you'll find a remarkable percentage of unmarried ones, quite a number of whom are unmarried well on in years. The hard "working" DXer is a person who has nothing better to do with all that time, and tries to amass some 'glory' by doing so 'cause he damn well knows he won't get such approval/recognition at home. There's no one there to give it to him. DXing takes him far away from local realities--and frankly, that's what I'm in it for, too. Here, I'm "po' folks" being shuffled and herded and red-taped and subsidized by the government. In Montreal, I was the 'hot shot'. Kinda makes a person feel good--but really, all that amounts to is a tiny zero on anyone else's lists of personal accomplishments, and has no more substance or permanance than the William P. Eddings Award I got in 1972 (and I still haven't figured out what the hell that was, or what the fanfare was all about!)

Those people who watch TV day in and day out look dumb to us, but they go out to movies, have parties, socialize, make out, go down town--face it: those of us who sit down day in and day out listening to static and turning down a beer-bust to edit a never-heard-of-column for some obscure, typewritten magazine, look dumb to them too. They aren't all that unaware of the hobby, though they are unaware of the details of how it works; there are a lot of stereotypes running around--not uneducated misconceptions, mind--stereotypes, as obviously stick out in numerous press coverages of a hobbyist. There are still more ex-DX-ers running around who have dropped out because of the nature of the people and priorities in it. I was one of 'em, for a while.

The same attitude that turned the hobby into a king-of-the-hill contest, is the root of bickering, nastiness, NUership, crusading, and downright childishness by those who refuse to work with someone else positively, in editorial and executive levels. Perhaps this anti-social, anti-people attitude accounts for the fact that there are no social features in any of the clubs... All the DX hobby amounts to is a collection of weirdos (I admit I'm one), and you can't really expect them to be appealing to 'normal' folks on a grand scale! Answer the questions Harry Helms puts forth--and a few more about ourselves and our peculiarities--and then the popularity and the quality of the hobby as a whole will change for the better.

M U S I C O N S H O R T W A V E (Jim Weber, PA) Mike Maghakian wrote a piece in the ECDXA letter about folk music on SW. He said that what one could hear was far better than what was available on record. I don't know what kind of libraries he has in his area, but I'm still looking on SW for the stuff I have in my own collection, let alone what's in the local record libraries. Nonesuch came out with a two record sampler of some of their best cuts from a good many albums, and it has some of the finest music I've ever heard. There is Andean pipe music that is breathtaking in its harmony and counterpoint and I have never

heard anything on the radio even approach it. There is a beautiful fertility song done by a Yugoslavian girls chorus as they parade through their village to lay wreathes before the shrine of Lepi Lado. There is much music from the South Seas, particularly Bali. I do find a lot of good music on the air, though not all of uniform quality. I think Tahiti is one of the finest music stations on SW; that is why I was so singularly disappointed one night when they did nothing but talk. But I don't think that they could be said to have folk music programming.

I used to listen to 60 meters almost exclusively but during the summer, I went after the music outlets in the higher bands. At first I was excited: the discovery of Iran 15084, Cairo 9475 9850 and other stations, plus the fidelity and quality of these stronger signals led to many enjoyable hours exploring the upper bands. But in September I look forward more and more to 60m listening. It just doesn't seem that kind of music exists elsewhere on the SW spectrum.

I did a little research and found that this just doesn't refer to folk or Latin sounds but music in general. Music is a lesser part of the programming on the international bands than on the tropicals. In a survey of 900 loggings in the Aug and Sept FRENDX, I found mentionings of music in these ratios (by mentionings I mean the inclusion of mx, pops, rock, Ez hymns and other acronyms in the log report text): in log section A, 70% of Aug loggings mentioned music; in Sept., 74%, giving an average of 72%. Aug B was 58, Sept B 65, average 61.5% Aug C was 37% Sept C 34%, average 35.5%. Aug D was 34%, Sept D 38%, average 36%.

And if we realize that the 60m band is split between report A and B, it is borne out even more--the ratio of music mentionings to total stations listed from 5.1 MHz on down is Aug tropicals 72%, Sept trops 74%, average 73%. I can't really be sure that the actual reason for this is simply that the tropical stations play more music; it may be that the loggers are just more interested in music. What do you think?

C O M M E R C I A L v s. N O N - C O M M E R C I A L (Mark Basick, CA) Everyone seems to have a strong opinion on this issue. I know that the so-called "European System" has its drawbacks but it would really help to clear up the mess known as medium wave.

To show what I mean, take a look at the AM pop music stations here in the L A. area. Where one top-40 AM station would suffice, there are 5 major ones along with several nobodies who altogether combine to add to the crowding on MW. The uniformity of the "Big Five" format is sickening. Their playlists are about identical and each one has almost exactly equal shares of the ratings--no one ever gets ahead.

Three of these, KTNQ, KHJ and KEZY-AM, direct themselves at the under-15 age group, complete with seemingly endless zit cream ads. All of the music is the same. KHJ's been experimenting with subdued DJs while the other two proudly feature the screamers.

The other two stations play the same music but seem to be aiming themselves at a more mature crowd. KFI on 50 kW is heard nitely from Phoenix to Fairbanks. It has more extensive news, commuter reports, plus in the morning hours, features the Lohman & Barklay comedy team show. KIIS-AM has recently made it into the top 5 and has extensive sports coverage plus many daytime features. All these stations are using the "Q Style" that emerged in L.A. in 1969 which incorporates back to back playing of discs to give the non-stop music sound. If a non-commercial system would be enacted, it'd be best to take all pop music off the AM dial except for one top-40 aimed at the adolescent age group. Then a station should be put on FM (where I think music belongs), with a pop rock format with almost uninterrupted music for the late teens onward age group, 'cause let's face it, the Dylans and Springsteens never have gone over real well with 10 year olds and Shaun Cassidy isn't really a favorite with most 25 year olds. Also on FM there would be a station for mellow pop/easy listening.

A lot of commercial broadcasting is duplication of what's on other stations. Would we really be sacrificing much for non-commercial radio??

M A I L O R D E R M A D N E S S, or A D V E N T U R E S I N G I L F E R L A N D (Syd Osterman, Toronto) I am going to tell you a story, one which, regretfully, happens to be true. Once upon a time, or about six months ago, I purchased from GILFER in New Jersey, one RAK-7 Active antenna. After a trial check out, I found that this was a 'useless', rather than an 'active' antenna. I wrote to GILFER, outlining the problem. After a further letter and maybe 6 weeks elapsed time, I was informed that the RAK-7 was 'too hot' for certain areas and that I could return it for credit.

The antenna was returned to New Jersey in the original shipping carton, with some added internal packing. At the same time items including the new WRTH were ordered--I needed this badly, since my old one had disintegrated. Well, I received an invoice and a credit note, to facilitate a Customs Duty refund, but no merchandise. Finally, a letter arrived, stating that the antenna had arrived through the postal system 'smashed' and would I forward the insurance certificate. I did so by Special Delivery, and again I waited and waited. Eventually, after another letter, I received the insurance certificate back, with a note that I must file the claim in Toronto! Damage was 'complete', said GILFER. "Claim the full amount". I hastened to file my claim. At best a tedious process, and with visions of the usual long delay, I gave instruction that the money, if any, should be paid to me. The next step was to purchase, locally, a new WRTH to aid in my unrequited quest for Cook in 1978, not 1979!

The next event in this tale of mystery and imagination absolutely floored me! A phone call from the Toronto Post Office to inform me that GILFER had dropped the damage claim, because they now found that only the carton was damaged! The RAK-7 apparently was working but erratic! Which, they claimed was why I had returned it in the first place! In addition they were now going to ship my substitute items. Needless to say, I hastened to inform GILFER not to ship anything--to no avail. Within a short period of time, the Customs arrival card was received.

Not one word of explanation have I received from GILFER about the alleged damage; they simply left it to the Post Office, who were most polite and efficient, which is a great deal more than I can say for GILFER.

My story is not intended as a condemnation of all mail-order SW equipment purchasing. I have obtained items from California and England, which were politely and speedily delivered and performed to specification.

I import items from many parts of the world in my business. Were I to treat my customers in the same off-hand way that GILFER uses, I doubt that I would have many left. Needless to say, I have crossed GILFER off my list of SW equipment suppliers.

FOOTNOTE: The latest GILFER catalogue still lists the RAK-7 Active antenna, with the caution, "not for use near AM, FM, or TV transmitters". In other words, if you live in a city, you can't use it! If you live in the country, you don't need it!

D I G I T A L v s. S S B (Jonathan Marks, UK) A letter to Brown Boveri Company (the other BBC) produced a response stating they for one were not interested in SSB as a future for BC work on SW. I must confess that tho SBC on SSB seeks OK, I can't see it in the future. My guess is that digital techniques will take over before SSB. By this, I envisage that the ordinary studio signal will be sampled say 40,000 times a second and the amplitude of the signal recorded in digital form. This info is in pulse form, probably similar to FAX and transmitted in the normal way. The receiver then uses the digits to reconstruct the audio signal to near studio quality. As long as the receiver can pick out the digital info, the final result is in-studio, no matter if the digital info in its path to the receiver goes into a fade or becomes distorted. So the station will either be heard well or not at all--no DX, hi! Rubbish, you might say, but the technology, via computers is with us now but super stable low cost SW radios are not. Digital is being tested in the UK and other countries. Richer stations would adopt it first, but the resulting quality gain would surely boost listenership, leading to digital/AM/FM radios on the market. Of course there would be problems--digital jammers and possibly different countries with incompatible systems would cause the idea to flop. Look how far direct satellite broadcasting has got.

B R O A D C A S T S I N E N G L I S H (Updating information in the Sept. RIB covering current usage; a completely revised list will appear in November RIB) ALBANIA 0130 & 0230 7120 ex-7300. AUSTRALIA 17795 to 0500 only. BULGARIA 2130 on 11750 & 11850, ex-15135; 0430 on 9530 ex-11750. GREECE 0015 11965 ex-9655; 0215 9610 ex-9655. INDIA 1330 add 15335. ISRAEL 0500 9833 & 11655. KOREA SOUTH 1600 9740 ex-9720; 2000 ex-0230, on 11860. KUWAIT 0500 17740 ex-15345. NORWAY 0000 6085 ex-6080. SOUTH AFRICA 0200 9610 ex-11800. YUGOSLAVIA R. Yugoslavia 2200-2215 B 9620.

FILTERING OUT THE TRUTH

Lawrence Magne

Dear Glenn,

Cf. RIB, p. 33. Tho't this might help RIB readers.

The current infatuation with mechanical IF filters brings to mind the automobile hobby publications in the 1950's, which at various times extolled different engine designs as "the" solution to existing problems. The turbine, the Wankel, superchargers, fuel injection, Diesel...these all have pluses and minuses, but in the Alice in Wonderland world of automobile worship, aficinados would talk about these new designs in a manner that can only be termed, politely, naive. This sold lots of magazines, and hardware, too, so it's little wonder one fad would die, only to be replaced by another, similar, Great Hope.

The original mechanical filter, as designed and produced by Collins, was and remains a superb device for producing tight selectivity. And back then, there was little to give it competition. It rightfully acquired a solid reputation, especially as HF bands became more crowded.

Since then, however, things have evolved. Collins is no longer the only or even the major supplier of mechanical filters. Less expensive Japanese versions have been around for years. These often perform equally with the Collins when they're new, but as time passes oxidization sets in, reducing performance. And mechanical shock takes its toll in sudden failures. Also during this period the ceramic filter was introduced. Unlike the mechanical filter, which established a good reputation from the outset, the early ceramic filters were like early color TV sets -- none too good. Their reputation, which still dogs them to this day, is that they are cheap and ineffective.

In truth, for several years the more costly ceramic filters have often been excellent selectivity devices. Their shape factors are comparable to those of mechanical filters, and they are both less costly to construct and more reliable in use. They're not as "fussy" to insert into a circuit, they're compact, and they have a lower insertion loss than mechanical filters. Still, the old reputation follows them, and a remarkable number of otherwise savvy DXers feel cheated if their receiver has a ceramic, rather than a mechanical, IF filter.

In fact, nearly any mechanical filter will give good selectivity, provided the appropriate bandwidth for the application is selected. Equally valid is that some ceramic filters are of similar caliber, and some are much worse. In other words, there are some awfully good ceramics to be had, provided you choose with care. Crystal lattice filters, where appropriate, can also do an excellent job.

Radio engineers are aware of this and increasingly make use of whichever type of filter is most suited to the application in question. For example, the outstanding new "superset", the Japan Radio Corp. NRD-505 with pushbutton memory tuning, utilizes all three types: mechanical, ceramic, and crystal lattice, each of which is used for a different bandwidth and function. All three perform superbly, from what I can tell from my limited "hands-on" use.

What, then, should the SWL or DXer make of all this?

A good starting point is to go over a potential new receiver's specs carefully to see what the IF filter performance is. Rarely does a manufacturer state what type of filter is being used. However, in many cases the performance -- which is what is relevant -- is detailed via two variables: "bandwidth", and "shape factor".

The bandwidth is the width of the filter at 6 decibels down, or -6 db. For serious SWLing, an approximate suitable bandwidth is around 4, maybe 5, kHz. For serious DXing, somewhere around 3 kHz is usually preferred, although if the receiver has passband tuning and is capable of exalted carrier selectable sideband the SSB filter can be used to alternate with the AM filter, in which case a 4 kHz bandwidth AM with a 2 kHz SSB filter for ECSS provides flexibility for normal and "tight" situations.

However, by itself bandwidth tells only half the story. The other, more difficult, half is the "shape factor", i.e. the ability of the filter to reject adjacent interferences even when they are strong relative to "your" signal. To do this, engineers measure IF bandwidth at a second, deeper, point, usually -60 db. (though overseas -66 db. is still commonly used). The ratio between the -6 db. and the -60 db. figures is called the shape factor, and the smaller it is, the better the filter, period. A mechanical filter or a good ceramic filter can give a shape factor in the 2:1 - 3:1 range, which helps greatly in cutting out the QRM.

Now, let's say you're looking at filters to go into a set with only one selectivity position, such as the Yaesu FRG-7. This has to perform for SWLing, DXing, and maybe even some SSB listening. The ceramic filter provided by the factory is also designed to provide pleasant listening to local stations, and lets in all manner of interference in the shortwave bands.

In this situation, a filter of roughly 4 kHz at -6 db. down with a shape factor of 2.5:1 would probably give good overall performance, i.e. it would have a bandwidth of 4 kHz at -6 db., 10 kHz (2.5 x 4 kHz) at -60 db. If you're not into program listening, but are shooting for rare DX catches, a 3 kHz filter (roughly 7 kHz at -60 db.) would probably be more to your liking, even though intelligibility would suffer. Although the FRG-7's low second IF frequenc precludes the use of a crystal lattice filter, either a mechanical or ceramic filter can be considered, and from that point the issues are of a fairly technical nature, e.g. "leakage", "insertion loss", and so on. For it's not simply a matter of taking out an original filter and soldering in whichever you please; if the set is designed for one thing, it may not take kindly to another without further modification...if at all.

The best bet, of course, is to purchase a receiver properly designed to begin with. But if you don't have the sums for such a unit, tune out the dogma suggesting this or that type of filter is "best", and find out how the modified sets work in practice, after real-life modification, to ensure the modification performs as it should. If you're a program listener and don't wish to have to strain to hear every word, try to find a filter with a -6 db. bandwidth of no less than 4 kHz, but...BUT, with the lowest shape factor. A filter with a large shape factor will do little to reduce QRM, and if it is very narrow at -6db. it will not only let in interferences, but also produce a "bassy" audio.

Review of International Broadcasting

GLENN HAUSER
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